

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 18-35, and 41-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 18-35, and 41-45 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent Claims 1 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,511,199 (Anthias, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,442,999 (Travis), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,957 (Ratner). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 requires, in part, determining a transport protocol at run-time for a message object based on destination information from an environment variable. The office action states the Anthias does not explicitly teach this, but that Travis does. The office action refers to a reference vector 34/35 in Travis that stores a value that identifies the *data type* of a referenced object. It appears that the office action equates the data type of an object with a transport protocol. Applicant contends that the data type of an object is different than a transport protocol. A transport protocol would be known to one skilled in the art as the protocol used to transport the referenced object. A transport protocol would not be considered by one skilled in the art to be the data type of an object. Therefore, the office action has not shown Travis to disclose determining a transport protocol at run-time.

Similarly, Ratner does not disclose determining a transport protocol at run-time. Rather, Ratner discloses always using the "path" routing mechanism (Ratner, col. 6, lines 22-36). The path routing mechanism is used in Ratner to create dialogues (pathsend) between clients and servers to as to provide context to multiple client-server transactions. In Ratner, communications

between client and server are managed by Linkmon (Ratner, col. 3, lines 17-22). The path constructed between the client and server is therefore also managed by Linkmon. The path between client and server is a transport protocol and the protocol is already determined prior to runtime. In contrast, claim 1 requires determining the transport protocol at run-time. The transport protocol could be a process-pathway protocol (similar to Ratner), or it could be an entirely different transport protocol such as a process to process protocol or a process to socket protocol.

Anthias, Ratner, or Travis, separately or in combination do not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references teach or suggest determining a transport protocol at run-time. Additionally, determining the transport protocol at run-time based on destination information from an environment variable is not disclosed. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable in view of the prior art.

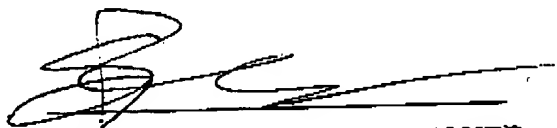
Independent claim 24 contains limitations similar to claim 1 and is therefore also allowable over the art of record. Dependent claims 2-12, 18-23, 25-35, and 41-45 contain limitations that render them separately allowable over the prior art. However, applicant forgoes such a discussion in the interest of brevity.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore solicits their allowance. Any fees in addition to those submitted may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

Stephen S. Roche, Reg. No. 52,176
Duft Setter Ollila & Bornsen LLC
Telephone: (303) 938-9999 ext. 15
Facsimile: (303) 938-9995

Correspondence address:**CUSTOMER NO. 28004**

Attn: Harley R. Ball
6391 Sprint Parkway
Mailstop: KSOPHT0101-Z2100
Overland Park, KS 66251-2100